and the rules modified so as to make provision for the grant of remission of tax in the cases referred to. In that connection, he also urged the need for a clear definition of the term *manipidi*, so as to remove the doubts and misapprehensions of local officers in the matter of granting remission. In his view, the lands should not be treated as *manipidi* and remission refused in cases in which the corns gathered from the land did not yield enough paddy to meet the quantity of seed, the cost of harvest and the land-tax payable to the Government. Similarly, remission should be allowed to lands the crops on which were protected by water from wells sunk by the ryots themselves.

Lastly, the Member said that the dealings of the ryots of the taluk being mostly with the British villagers, the *edangali* and *para* measures were of no use in the taluk. He requested that the measures in use in the Tenkasi taluk should be introduced in Shencotta.

Dewan's reply.—The Government have already promised to open a manure depot at Shencotta. That will be done as soon as funds become available. In regard to the improvement of the roads for agricultural traffic, the Member is referred to the programme of roads for the Quilon Division from which it will be seen that the roads for the taluk come as item No. 10. The other representations made by the Member will be referred to the heads of departments concerned for report.

50. Improvement of the condition of the ryots of the State.

Mr. R. Parasurama Iyer (Member, Kunnathur taluk) dwelt at length on the several causes which contributed to the decline of agriculture in the State and to the poverty of its people and pointed out how the scientific development of the resources of the country would improve the condition of the ryots. He made the following suggestions for the consideration of the Government to improve their condition:—

(1) Lands fit for cultivation and lying within reserved forests like the Kodumon Reserve should be excluded from the reserve and brought under registry. Similarly, lands under water bordering the back-waters should also be registered to applicants. There was great demand for land and the extension of cultivation should be encouraged.

(2) The enhancement of the rates of *tharavila* and assessment on *puduval* lands had materially affected the ryots and discouraged them from going in for new lands. The rates should be reduced.

(3) Irrigation works should be carried out in aid of agriculture and the ryots made to contribute a portion of the cost.

(4) The State should be divided into several agricultural districts and sub-districts presided over by competent professional men. Each sub-district should have a laboratory to analyse soils and manures and also a demonstration and experimental farm.

(5) Agriculture should be taught in schools by qualified men, preferably through the officer in charge of the sub-districts.

(6) Popular lectures on agricultural subjects should be organised throughout the country.

(7) In each of the proposed agricultural sub-districts, there should be an agricultural exhibition and cattle show at least once every year.

(8) The officers in charge of the sub-districts should have the power to grant agricultural loans up to a certain money limit.

(9) The existing manure depots were too few for the State and their number should be increased so as to meet the demands of the people.

(10) Grazing grounds should be reserved wherever such lands were not available.

(11) The Department of Agriculture should have the control of all tanks, canals, grazing grounds and other *porambokes* directly useful for agricultural purposes.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

51. The creation of an agricultural board for the taluk.

Mr. S. Subramonia Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Haripad) pointed out that the Karthigapai taluk was a purely agricultural one and said that the following were the

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directions in which the agricultural condition of the taluk stood in need of improvement:—

(1) The old irrigation channels had been considerably silted up and in parts encroached upon by adjacent land-holders. Those channels should be re-opened and restored to their original condition of utility. The Member also presented a sketch of such channels in the taluk.

(2) To prevent the entry of brine into paddy fields, a few locks in suitable places should be provided and crops duly safeguarded thereby.

(3) The necessity of trying new seeds and improved methods of cultivation should be demonstrated by the Agricultural Department.

(4) The condition of cattle was most unsatisfactory and hence it was necessary to set apart pasture lands in each *pakuthi*.

(5) Every *pakuthi* should have a cattle-pound.

(6) With a view to the improvement of the breed of cattle, proper seed bulls should be posted in every agricultural farm, and cattle exhibitions should be freely held and encouraged.

In that connection, he referred to the necessity of starting dairy farms in every *pakuthi* especially in view of the increasing difficulty to obtain pure milk, butter &c., and of adopting more stringent and prompt measures to check the spread of the cocoanut blight. He also urged the need for the introduction of new varieties of cocoanuts into the country.

For the above purposes, the Member advocated the creation of an agricultural board, and suggested the appointment of a full time agricultural inspector for every taluk, where agriculture was the main industry of the people. The Board should consist of the Inspector, the Taluk Tahsildar, and one member selected from the people of each *pakuthi*. He also advocated the formation of branch agricultural boards for each *pakuthi* consisting of not more than five respectable cultivators with power to elect one to the Taluk Board. He referred to the part played by such boards or guilds in Europe and America in the economic development of the country, and requested that the Government should give his proposal their best consideration.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

The Assembly adjourned at 5-15 P. M.

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